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TRADESCANTIA EDWARDSIANA, NOV. SP.

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SOME ten years ago, on a botanical trip to the Blanco River thirty miles southwest of Austin, Texas, a striking *Tradescantia* was discovered growing along a half-shaded gravel terrace bordering a tributary creek. The plants were robust in stature, bright green in color, with leaves relatively much broader than is usual for the genus, and with three well-developed but unequal bracts subtending a dense inflorescence of blue (occasionally pink or white) flowers each some 2.0–2.5 cm. in diameter.

An abundance of material was collected, and a description based upon careful study of fresh material was written. A year or two later the plant was found growing in a similar situation along Bull Creek, a tributary of the Colorado River a few miles above Austin. Material transplanted from the latter place and grown under observation along with other Texas species has confirmed the opinion that it represents an undescribed species. For it the name *Tradescantia edwardsiana* is proposed as appropriate in indicating the region, the Edwards Plateau, in which it is found. A description follows:

TRADESCANTIA edwardsiana, nov. sp., affinis *T. humili* Rose, sed differt habitu altiore et foliis latoribus. Caulis 4–7 dm. altus, inferne simplex, sursum ramosus; folia lanceolata vel lineari-lanceolata, 2.5–6.5 cm. lata; pedicelli, sepala et ovarium glanduloso-pubescentia.

Stems 4–7 dm. tall, rather stout, 1–1.2 cm. thick at base, simple below or 2 or 3 from a common base, lower stem-internodes varying from 1 cm. to more than 5 cm. long, at length widely branched above,



Fig. 1. TRADESCANTIA EDWARDSIANA, $\times \frac{4}{5}$. Drawn by *Eula Whitehouse*.

the primary branches frequently in turn branched, lower internodes sparsely, the upper thickly clothed with very short, simple, conic white hairs; *leaf blades* lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, 2.5–6.5 cm. wide x 2–3 dm. long, acuminate, bright green above, somewhat glaucous beneath, clothed on both upper and lower surfaces with hairs like those on the stem, the somewhat undulate edges rough with a copious supply of same; *lower sheaths* sometimes nearly 3 cm. long (hence exceptionally imbricated on stems with short internodes) upper sometimes as short as 0.5 cm., nearly glabrous except the short ciliate margins; *bracts* of the involucre 2 or 3, very unequal, similar to leaves except more crisped and also asymmetrical, not at all saccate at base, at maturity more or less reflexed; *cymes* 3–5-rayed, few to many (15–nearly 100) flowered; *mature pedicels* about 3 cm. long, ciliate with yellowish hairs which are simple at base and increasingly glandular toward the capsule in young buds but nearly all simple in mature pedicels, hairs also about twice as long (0.7 mm.) at apex as at base, each pedicel subtended by a white, lavender-margined or green, asymmetrical, abruptly acute bractlet 5 mm. long x 2.5 mm. broad which is sparsely pubescent on the lower surface especially along the midrib; *bractlets* in each ray 2-ranked, approximate in each rank, oblique (the outer edge higher, the inner lower on the axis of the ray); *sepals* lanceolate, asymmetrical, 3–4 x 8–9 mm., like the pedicels pubescent with yellowish glandular hairs; *corolla* pale blue to nearly pure white or sometimes slightly lavender, petals about 10–12 mm. long, very broadly ovate; *filaments* rather slender, about 5 mm. long, a little darker than the petals, *anthers* at first erect, the pollen-sacs separated by a very broad connective at the top but somewhat converging below, bright yellow; *ovary* copiously pubescent with short white glandular hairs; *style* (including ovary) little more than half as long as the filaments, white or pale blue, flexuous; *stigma* terminal, brush-like, composed of very short white hairs; *capsule* oblong, 4–5 mm. broad, about twice as long, obtuse at both ends, slightly constricted in the center, usually 3-celled (rarely 4-celled), pubescence about 1 mm. long, hairs reflexed, of the same character as those on calyx and upper part of pedicels; *ovules* normally six (rarely eight), 2 in each cavity; *seeds* 2 x 4 mm., grey, transversely wrinkled, with linear longitudinal ridges extending nearly the length of the seed.—Moist alluvial terraces and ravines of the Edwards Plateau. Specimens collected: Blanco River in Hayes County; Bull Creek in Travis County, TEXAS.

The type specimen (*Tharp* no. 7944) collected by *B. C. Tharp* on the Blanco River 7 miles northwest of Kyle, Texas, April 4, 1921, is deposited in the herbarium of the University of Texas.

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